

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02 SSM-05

AID-05 CPR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02

SS-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 /099 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MVANORDER:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

SSM - MS. GREEN

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

AF/P - MR. POPE

NEA - MS. GRIFFIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SANA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE
USMISSION SINAI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 5

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 5,
1976:

Q. ARE YOU PREPARED TO COMMENT TODAY ON THE SOMALI
SITUATION AND FORMER AMBASSADOR AKINS' STATEMENT YESTER-
DAY?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE THE FULL TEXT OF THE FORMER
AMBASSADOR'S TESTIMONY YESTERDAY. SPECIFICALLY, WHAT
ARE YOU INTERESTED IN?

Q. DID THE UNITED STATES RECEIVE A PROPOSAL FROM THE
SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT THAT IT WAS PREPARED TO FINANCE
AMERICAN AID OR OTHER FOREIGN AID TO SOMALI WITH THE
PURPOSE OF GETTING THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN THERE REDUCED
OR ELBOWED OUT?
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A. I CAN SAY THAT THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF THE HORN OF
AFRICA INVOLVES SOMALIA, INVOLVES A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES
WITH WHOM WE HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS, AND IT IS CONSIDERABLY

MORE COMPLEX THAN APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED IN
WHAT WE HAVE SEEN OF FORMER AMBASSADOR AKINS' TESTIMONY.

IN PARTICULAR, THE ISSUE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA
AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION--THESE ARE FAR
TOO COMPLEX FOR ME TO GO INTO IN ANY DETAIL. THE
TESTIMONY AS WE HAVE SEEN IT APPEARS TO DESCRIBE ONLY
ONE ASPECT OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. IT STRIKES US THAT
WHAT APPEAR TO BE THE INFERENCES DRAWN FROM THAT

TESTIMONY ARE MISLEADING.

I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT AS A MATTER OF FACT THAT IN LATE SUMMER OF 1975 WE DECIDED TO RESTORE A MODEST AID PROGRAM TO THE SOMALIS--WHICH HAD BEEN SUSPENDED IN 1970.

NOW, I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO A DISCUSSION OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT WENT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR POLICY WITH REGARD TO SOMALIA.

Q. WHAT PART OF IT IS MISLEADING, SO WE WILL NOT BE MISLED?

A. WE DO NOT HAVE THE COMPLETE TESTIMONY. THAT IS THE FIRST THING. AND IT IS SO COMPLEX THAT I AM NOT PREPARED FROM THIS FORUM TO GO INTO A DETAILED DISCUSSION OF IT. THIS IS JUST A GENERAL COMMENTARY ON THE WHOLE SUBJECT AS DISCUSSED BY AKINS.

Q. ARE YOU IMPLYING, THOUGH, THAT THE REASON FOR NOT-- WELL, FIRST, LET'S ASK THIS QUESTION: DID THE SAUDIS MAKE SUCH A PROPOSAL?

A. I AM NOT REALLY PREPARED TO GO INTO A DISCUSSION OF CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS THAT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE GONE ON BETWEEN THE SAUDIS AND OURSELVES UNCLASSIFIED

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ON THAT.

Q. ALL RIGHT. THE SECOND POINT IS, ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPLY THAT THERE IS NO LINK BETWEEN WHAT THE SAUDIS MIGHT HAVE DONE IN DIEGO GARCIA? IS THAT THE SPECIFIC THING YOU'RE TRYING TO IMPLY WITHOUT REALLY WANTING TO COME TO GRIPS WITH IT?

A. I AM SAYING--I WILL ANSWER THAT QUESTION: THE SOMALI ISSUE HAS NO RELATIONSHIP WHATSOEVER TO OUR PROPOSAL TO BUILD UP DIEGO GARCIA. THE QUESTION OF DIEGO GARCIA WAS A SEPARATE MATTER THEN BEFORE CONGRESS.

SO THE ANSWER TO THAT IS, NO, THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP.

Q. SO THE IMPLICATIONS WHICH WERE DRAWN ON THE HILL YESTERDAY THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO REDUCE THE SOVIET PRESENCE IN SOMALI BECAUSE IT MIGHT WEAKEN ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS TO GET A BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA ARE BEING SPECIFICALLY DENIED BY YOU?

A. I AM SAYING THERE IS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA AND OUR PLANS THEN UNDER DISCUSSION

BEFORE CONGRESS WITH REGARD TO DIEGO GARCIA.

Q. WAIT A MINUTE. THAT MAY BE IS A BIT TOO SWEEPING SINCE THE NAVY HAS REPEATEDLY POINTED AT THE SOVIET NAVAL BASE IN SOMALI AS BEING ONE OF THE REASONS, IF NOT THE MAIN JUSTIFICATION, FOR NEEDING A BASE IN DIEGO GARCIA. YOU ARE MAYBE GOING TOO FAR WHEN YOU WORD IT THAT WAY, AREN'T YOU?

A. NO, I AM SAYING THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP.

Q. NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SAUDI OFFER OR THE EXISTENCE OF A SOVIET NAVAL BASE IN SOMALIA?

A. I AM NOT EXPANDING IT BEYOND THE WAY IT WAS STATED IN YESTERDAY'S TESTIMONY, WHERE THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE TWO WAS MADE. I AM SAYING THERE WAS NO RELATIONSHIP IN THE MANNER SUGGESTED IN THE AKINS UNCLASSIFIED

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TESTIMONY.

Q. OKAY. CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS AID WHICH YOU SAY WAS RESUMED LAST YEAR? WHAT IS IT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE THE PRECISE FIGURES ON THAT, BUT I THINK THE FIGURES ARE IN THE BUDGET.

Q. THIS IS ECONOMIC AID? NO MILITARY?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF IT, BUT I KNOW THAT THERE WAS A MODEST AID PROGRAM RESTORED TO SOMALIA LAST YEAR. AND I THINK THAT IS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. I DO NOT HAVE THE PRECISE FIGURES ON HOW MUCH OR IN WHAT CATEGORY.

Q. SINCE THE AMBASSADOR APPARENTLY LEFT A LOT OF PEOPLE DOWN ON THE HILL WITH WHAT ARE NOW CALLED MIS-LEADING CONCLUSIONS, WHAT DOES THE DEPARTMENT PLAN

TO DO? ARE THEY JUST GOING TO LET THE MATTER STAND AS IT IS, OR IS SOMEONE GOING TO TRY AND SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT OUR PRECISE PLANS WOULD BE, BUT I THINK THE FIRST THING TO DO IS GET THE COMPLETE TEXT OF THE TESTIMONY, WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE AT THIS TIME.

Q. YOU SAY IT IS TOO COMPLICATED TO DISCUSS HERE. WHEN ARE WE GOING TO GET IT DISCUSSED?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS IT FROM THIS FORUM, THE WHOLE MATTER OF THE RELATIONSHIPS, POLITICAL AND MILITARY, IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA, OR ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT. I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THAT HERE.

Q. ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH IS TOO COMPLEX FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND?

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A. NO, I AM NOT IMPLYING THAT AT ALL. I AM JUST SAYING I CAN'T ADDRESS IT FROM THIS PARTICULAR FORUM IN ANY GREAT DETAIL.

Q. I AM NOT CLEAR ABOUT WHAT THE MISLEADING IMPLICATIONS ARE. YOU SAID THAT THERE WERE MISLEADING INFERENCES OR IMPLICATIONS. WHAT ARE THEY?

A. ONE I JUST GAVE YOU; NAMELY, THAT THERE WAS SOME KIND OF LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SOMALIA ISSUE AND DIEGO GARCIA. THAT WAS ONE.

Q. WHAT ARE THE OTHERS?

A. I WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE ENTIRE TESTIMONY AND DISCUSS IT BEFORE ANSWERING THAT.

Q. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WHEN YOU SAY THE INFERENCE THAT WE SHOULD NOT DRAW IS A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SOMALIA ISSUE AND DIEGO GARCIA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THE SOMALIA ISSUE"?

A. THE QUESTION, AS I UNDERSTAND IT AS STATED WAS, "DID WE NOT ACT ON THE SAUDI PROPOSAL BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN PERSUADING CONGRESS THAT THE SOVIET THREAT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN REQUIRED DIEGO GARCIA?" I AM SAYING NO. THE SOMALI

ISSUE HAD NO RELATIONSHIP TO OUR PROPOSAL TO BUILD UP DIEGO GARCIA. THAT WAS A PLAN THAT WAS ALREADY FORMULATED FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE CONGRESS. SOMEHOW, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, IN THE AKINS TESTIMONY THE INFERENCE COULD BE DRAWN THAT THERE WAS SOMEHOW SOME LINKAGE BETWEEN THE TWO.

Q. WHEN YOU SAY THAT WAS A PLAN THAT WAS ALREADY FORMULATED, MR. AKINS' TESTIMONY DIDN'T GO TO THAT. THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER OR NOT YOU FOREBORE FROM ACTING IN ANY FASHION ON THE SAUDI OFFER BECAUSE OF YOUR DESIRE NOT TO UNDERCUT THE CASE FOR DIEGO GARCIA. NOW, DID YOU DO THAT?

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A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THAT KIND OF DETAIL ON WHAT WE WERE SAYING TO THE SAUDIS ON THAT SUBJECT.

Q. I AM NOT ASKING YOU FOR THE DETAILS. I AM ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU DID NOT RESPOND.

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO DESCRIBE TO YOU WHAT OUR RESPONSE MIGHT OR MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN OR WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN OUR CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

Q. MR. AKINS SAID THAT HE DIDN'T GET ANY RESPONSE FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN REGARD TO THE OFFER, AND IN FACT, FOLLOWED IT UP BY SENDING CABLES EXPRESSING SAUDI INTEREST AS TO WHY THERE WAS NO RESPONSE.

DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT RESPOND IN ANY FASHION TO MR. AKINS?

A. FIRST OF ALL, I AM NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT CONTENTS OF SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT AND OUR EMBASSIES IN THE FIELD. I WILL SAY THAT THEN AMBASSADOR AKINS WAS NOT AWARE OF ALL FACTS INVOLVED IN THIS VERY COMPLEX ISSUE, AND HE CERTAINLY WAS UNABLE TO SEE EVERYTHING THAT WAS OF IMPORTANCE BEING EXAMINED BY POLICY MAKERS IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DID YOU RESPOND TO THE AMBASSADOR ON THIS ISSUE, NOT TO THE SAUDIS, BUT DID YOU RESPOND TO THE AMBASSADOR IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST?

A. I FEEL SURE THAT THE DEPARTMENT MADE APPROPRIATE RESPONSES TO AMBASSADOR AKINS.

Q. DO YOU KNOW THAT TO BE THE CASE?

A. I AM ASSUMING IT TO BE THE CASE SINCE WE ARE IN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR AMBASSADORS ON SUCH SUBJECTS ALL THE TIME.

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Q. HAVE YOU CHECKED IT IN THIS CASE?

A. I THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT AS A GIVEN.

Q. IS IT A FACT?

A. YOU CAN ACCEPT IT THAT WE ARE IN COMMUNICATION WITH OUR AMBASSADORS ON ISSUES OF THIS SORT.

Q. I AM NOT ASKING YOU WHETHER YOU ARE IN COMMUNICATION IN GENERAL WITH AMBASSADORS ON ISSUES OF THIS SORT; I AM ASKING YOU WHETHER OR NOT IN THIS INSTANCE YOU RESPONDED TO MR. AKINS.

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF HOW MANY COMMUNICATIONS OR WHAT FORM OF COMMUNICATIONS WE HAD WITH AKINS ON THIS SPECIFIC QUESTION.

Q. IT CANNOT BE TAKEN AS A GIVEN THAT AN AMBASSADOR IS INFORMED OF SUBJECTS RELATING TO HIS COUNTRY.

A. I THINK YOU CAN TAKE IT AS A GIVEN THAT THE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSES WITH ANY AMBASSADOR MATTERS THAT CONCERN HIS COUNTRY. NOW, AS TO SPECIFIC COMMUNICATIONS--

Q. ONE OTHER POINT. YOU SAY THE INFERENCES ARE -- ARE YOU SAYING THE INFERENCES OR THE IMPLICATIONS ARE MISLEADING?

A. THE INFERENCES DRAWN FROM THE TESTIMONY. I AM NOT SAYING THAT HE IS IMPLYING SOMETHING; I AM SAYING THE INFERENCES DRAWN FROM THE TESTIMONY COULD BE MISLEADING.

Q. COULD BE OR ARE?

A. ARE.

Q. AND YOU ARE SAYING THAT WITHOUT KNOWING THE DETAILS OF THE SITUATION? YOU SAY YOU ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THEM.
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A. THIS IS A GENERAL COMMENT ON THE TESTIMONY AS WE HAVE SEEN IT SO FAR. AND I STRESS THAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE ENTIRE TESTIMONY VERBATIM AND THAT THE ISSUES INVOLVED, PARTICULARLY THE ONE WITH REGARD TO THE HORN OF AFRICA, IS AN EXTRAORDINARILY COMPLEX ONE INVOLVING MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND MANY CONSIDERATIONS.

Q. I AM CONFUSED BY ONE THING THEN. IF YOU ARE UNPREPARED TO GO INTO THIS, THEN HOW CAN YOU TELL US THE INFERENCES DRAWN FROM THE TESTIMONY ARE MISLEADING? ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU DO THAT?

A. I THINK I HAVE JUST EXPLAINED.

Q. I DON'T BELIEVE I UNDERSTOOD THE EXPLANATION.
COULD YOU TRY IT AGAIN FOR ME, PLEASE?

A. WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO YOU WISH TO KNOW?

Q. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW YOU CAN SAY THE INFERENCES FROM
THE TESTIMONY ARE MISLEADING IF YOU ARE UNWILLING TO TELL
US HOW YOU KNOW THIS TO BE SO, OR HOW THEY ARE MISLEADING,
OR ANYTHING ELSE. YOU ASK US TO ACCEPT THAT THE INFER-
ENCES ARE MISLEADING WITHOUT TELLING US WHY THAT IS SO,
OR THE BASIS OF THE FACTS.

A. I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT THE TESTIMONY APPEARS TO
DESCRIBE ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM. THE WHOLE
PROBLEM I AM IDENTIFYING AS THE QUESTION OF THE HORN OF
AFRICA, THE INDIAN OCEAN, OUR RELATIONS WITH THE MANY
COUNTRIES INVOLVED THERE.

--THEN WE GOT DOWN TO THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF WHETHER OR
NOT SOMEHOW IT COULD BE ALLEGED THAT WE DID NOT ACT ON THE
SAUDI PROPOSAL BECAUSE WE WERE ENGAGED AT THAT TIME IN
PERSUADING CONGRESS TO BUILD UP DIEGO GARCIA. IF ONE
DRAWS THAT INFERENCE, IT IS INACCURATE. THERE IS NO RE-
LATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO. THAT IS WHAT I HAVE SAID.
AND THAT IS ONE SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF WHAT I MEAN BY DRAW-
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ING THE WRONG INFERENCES FROM THE TESTIMONY.

--IS THAT ANY HELP?

Q. YES, IT IS.

Q. JUST A SMALL POINT. DID THE STATE DEPARTMENT STOP
THE AMBASSADOR FROM TRAVELLING TO LONDON FOR A CONFERENCE
WITH PRINCE FAHD ON THE QUESTION OF OIL PRICES? BECAUSE
OF FUND SHORTAGES?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF THE REASON WHY THE AMBASSADOR DID
NOT TRAVEL TO LONDON ON THAT PARTICULAR OCCASION. BUT I
DOUBT VERY MUCH THAT SUCH JUSTIFICATION WOULD BE
GIVEN. IF THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT WANT HIM TO GO TO
LONDON, IT PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TOLD HIM STRAIGHT OUT NOT
TO GO, RATHER THAN CITE FUND SHORTAGES.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT OF THE FOREIGN MINIS-
TER OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED STATES?

A. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIAL VISIT. IT IS A PRIVATE VISIT.
IT HAS NO OFFICIAL CHARACTER WHATSOEVER.

Q. ISN'T IT UNUSUAL FOR AN IRAQI OFFICIAL OF ANY RANK TO

COME TO A COUNTRY WHERE THERE ARE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, THE U.N. ASIDE?

A. NO, I DO NOT THINK IT IS UNUSUAL. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS EDUCATED IN THE UNITED STATES. HE WAS ON A VISIT IN THIS HEMISPHERE. HE STOPPED OFF IN FLORIDA. IT IS NOTHING UNUSUAL. NO SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO IT WHATSOEVER.

Q. DOES HE HAVE A MEDICAL PROBLEM?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF A MEDICAL PROBLEM, AS SUCH. I KNOW THAT THE REASON FOR HIS VISIT IS TO REST AND RELAX, AND IS OF A PRIVATE NATURE. THIS IS ABOUT ALL I CAN TELL YOU ON THAT.

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Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT SENT ANYONE TO MIAMI TO SEE TO IT THAT HE IS TAKEN CARE OF?

A. TAKEN CARE OF? YES, THERE IS A STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WHO WILL GO, AS A COURTESY, TO MEET DR. HAMMADI AT THE AIRPORT AND ESCORT HIM TO HIS HOTEL. WE PLAN NO OFFICIAL MEETINGS WITH HIM. THIS IS A COURTESY EXTENDED TO HIM.

Q. YOU MEAN THIS STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL, WHOEVER HE IS, WILL NOT DISCUSS ANY AFFAIRS OF STATE WITH HIM, BUT JUST ASK HIM HOW HE IS ENJOYING HIS REST?

A. THE PURPOSE OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS GOING TO MIAMI IS TO EXTEND COURTESIES AND TO TAKE HIM FROM THE AIRPORT TO HIS HOTEL.

Q. AND THEN COME BACK TO WASHINGTON?

A. I SUPPOSE HE WILL COME BACK VERY SOON, YES.

Q. WHO IS THE OFFICIAL?

A. HIS NAME IS MORRIS DRAPER. HE IS THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON AND SYRIA.

Q. IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMING TO WASHINGTON?

A. NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Q. YOU SAY IT IS NOT UNUSUAL TO EXTEND THESE KIND OF COURTESIES TO A COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE HAVE NO DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS?

A. NO, I DO NOT THINK IT IS UNUSUAL. THIS MAN, AS YOU KNOW, WAS EDUCATED IN THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS A PHD FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AND HE HAS MANY FRIENDS HERE.

Q. WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME IT HAPPENED, DO YOU REMEMBER?

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A. I DO NOT KNOW. I DO KNOW THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER, THE SAME GENTLEMAN, VISITED WASHINGTON DURING HIS STAY AT THE LAST SESSION OF THE U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. SO THAT IS THE LAST TIME IT HAPPENED FOR DR. HAMMADI.

Q. AND ON THAT VISIT, DID HE SEE ANYONE IN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT?

A. I AM NOT INFORMED OF THAT.

Q. WHY WOULD YOU GIVE HIM COURTESIES IN MIAMI AND NOT IN WASHINGTON?

A. I DO NOT KNOW THAT COURTESIES WERE NOT EXTENDED IN WASHINGTON. I AM JUST SAYING THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED FOR DR. HAMMADI WAS DURING THE MOST RECENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION, AND THAT HE DID COME TO WASHINGTON THEN. I DO NOT KNOW WHOM HE SAW, AT THAT TIME.

Q. WAS THIS LAST FALL?

A. YES, THE MOST RECENT SESSION. I CANNOT TELL YOU WHEN DURING THE SESSIONS. THEY ARE ABOUT THREE MONTHS LONG.

Q. MR. DRAPER IS NOT GOING TO HOLD ANYTHING THAT COULD BE CALLED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS?

A. AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE IS NOT.

Q. HOW LONG IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER GOING TO BE HERE? IN THE UNITED STATES?

A. I DO NOT KNOW. WE HAVE NO DETAILS OF HIS ITINERARY OR HIS PLANS WHILE IN MIAMI.

Q. DOESN'T HE NEED A VISA?

A. I SUPPOSE HE DOES, YES.

Q. WOULDN'T THE VISA HAVE A TIMEFRAME?

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A. ON THIS PARTICULAR TYPE OF VISA, I DO NOT KNOW. I AM NOT AWARE OF THE DETAILS OF THAT.

Q. JUST OUT OF CURIOSITY, COULD YOU FIND OUT? I MEAN, THIS WHOLE THING IS BEING PORTRAYED SO INNOCENTLY THAT SURELY YOU COULD FIND OUT.

A. I THINK IT IS PRECISELY AS PORTRAYED. IT IS A PERSONAL, PRIVATE VISIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF REST AND RELAXATION AFTER HIS OTHER STOP-OFFS HERE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.

Q. ANOTHER QUESTION FROM MR. AKINS' TESTIMONY YESTERDAY. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE THAT MR. KISHOGI HAD BEEN USED AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN PRESIDENT NIXON AND THE KING. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUCH KNOWLEDGE?

A. NO, WE DO NOT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IT TO BE UNTRUE?

A. I AM SAYING WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO KNOWLEDGE OF THAT. WE HAVE LOOKED INTO IT AND DO NOT FIND A BASIS FOR IT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO WHEN YOU WILL BE SUFFICIENTLY FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF MR. AKINS' ASSERTIONS TO GIVE US AN ANSWER BEYOND THE FACT THAT THE INFERENCES ARE NOT CORRECT?

A. I CANNOT TELL YOU WHETHER IT WOULD BE TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY PRECISELY, NO, I CANNOT.

Q. WILL THERE BE AN ANSWER?

A. AN ANSWER TO WHAT?

Q. FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO THE ALLEGATIONS OUT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS YESTERDAY?

A. I DOUBT THAT WE PLAN TO ISSUE ANY KIND OF FORMAL STATEMENT.
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Q. SO WE HAVE TO ASK YOU EACH DAY --

A. THIS IS TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS.

Q. SO WE HAVE TO ASK YOU EACH DAY IN THE BRIEFING, IS THAT CORRECT?

A. YOU ARE CERTAINLY FREE TO POSE QUESTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE AKINS TESTIMONY, BUT I CERTAINLY CAN'T ASSURE YOU THAT WE ARE GOING TO ISSUE ANY KIND OF OVERALL STATEMENT ADDRESSING ALL THE POINTS THAT ARE RAISED IN THE AKINS TESTIMONY.

Q. HAVE YOU HAD ANY INQUIRIES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE THAT WAS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AKINS TESTIMONY? BECAUSE SOME OF THEM EXPRESSED VAST SURPRISE AT THE NATURE OF THE TESTIMONY, IF NOT TO SAY SHOCK.

A. MY OFFICE HAS RECEIVED NO SUCH COMMUNICATION. AS FAR AS THE REST OF THE DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED, I AM NOT INFORMED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN INQUIRIES FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE DIRECTED TO THE DEPARTMENT. BUT I AM NOT INFORMED OF ANY SUCH COMMUNICATION.

Q. SHOULD YOU RECEIVE AN INQUIRY FROM A MEMBER OF CONGRESS ABOUT THE TESTIMONY AND YOUR CLASSIFICATION OF IT AS PERHAPS MISLEADING, WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THAT CONGRESSMAN IN DETAIL?

A. I THINK I WOULD HAVE TO LET THE OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT WHO RECEIVED THE QUESTION FRAME HIS OWN RESPONSE.

Q. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER IN FACT WE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO GET AN ANSWER FROM YOU SUBSTANTIVELY ON THIS QUESTION. CAN YOU AT LEAST ASSURE ME THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION AT SOME POINT?

A. I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY ASSURANCE THAT I AM GOING TO GET MORE INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT THAN I NOW HAVE. ON THE OTHER HAND, I CANNOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU FURTHER INFORMATION. LET'S PUT IT THAT WAY.

Q. YOU SAID THAT YOU CAN'T GIVE US ANY ASSURANCE THAT YOU WILL EVER BE ABLE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON THE POINT I AM ASKING ABOUT. IS THAT BECAUSE THE DEPARTMENT DOESN'T HAVE SUCH INFORMATION, OR BECAUSE YOU WON'T BE ABLE YOURSELF TO GET IT?

A. LET'S JUST SAY THAT I CANNOT PREDICT IN THE FUTURE WHEN I AM GOING TO RECEIVE INFORMATION THAT WOULD PERMIT ME TO RESPOND SPECIFICALLY TO THAT QUESTION. WE GET INFORMATION ALL THE TIME, ALL DAY, EVERY DAY, ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, AND WE POSE QUESTIONS TO VARIOUS OFFICES IN THE DEPARTMENT ON SOMETHING JUST LIKE THIS. I CANNOT PREDICT THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER RESPONSE TO IT OR NOT. YOU ARE CERTAINLY FREE TO POSE THE QUESTION AGAIN, AND I

WILL TRY TO OBTAIN AS MUCH INFORMATION ON IT AS I CAN FOR
YOU. THAT IS A PLEDGE, OKAY?

A. ANYTHING ELSE? THANK YOU.

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BEIRUT
CAIRO
DAMASCUS
GENEVA

JIDDA
KUWAIT
DHAHRAN
JERUSALEM
KHARTOUM
MANAMA
TEHRAN
TEL AVIV
TRIPOLI
RABAT
LONDON
PARIS
MOSCOW
ROME
USUN N Y
NATO
SANA
TUNIS
BAGHDAD
DOHA
ABU DHABI
NOUAKCHOTT
MOGADISCIO
SINAI
ADDIS ABABA
CINCEUR

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